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ER: 60-3838/A 23 JUN 1960

Colonel H. G. Hamilton, USA (Ret)

Dear Colonel Hamilton:

In Mr. Dulles' temporary absence from Washington, I am writing to acknowledge and thank you for your thoughtful letter of 18 May.

We have read your comments and suggestions with a great deal of interest and very much appreciate the time and effort you have spent in giving us your ideas about how to enhance intelligence coverage on a worldwide basis. Your Retired Officer Volunteer Intelligence Service proposal is a most interesting one, and I have taken the liberty of passing on your letter to some of our people here for further study.

Should we find that we can develop practical applications of your suggestions, we will be in further touch with you.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Assistant to the Director

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O/DCI [] vgd 23 June 1960

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620-3838

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18 May 1960.

Mr. Allen W. Dulles,
Director, Central Intelligence Agency,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Dulles:

I have a suggestion which, if properly exploited, could measurably enhance our intelligence coverage on a world-wide scale.

It occurs to me that there is a great reservoir of unused potential in the Retired Officer group of the Regular establishments--Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps. These people have demonstrated career-long integrity, loyalty, a high sense of duty, and have already been thoroughly investigated for Secret and Top Secret clearances. Now they are everywhere--in communities, in seaports, in organizations, and in industry throughout the world. They are, for the most part, trained observers with a sound grasp of the fundamentals of intelligence and security.

While it is true that their status as retired officers is usually recognized, and the use of a "cover" for clandestine operation impractical, it would appear that there are still many areas of usefulness in the intelligence and counter-intelligence field.

I therefore propose a Retired Officer Volunteer Intelligence Service (ROVIS) to be composed initially of Regular officers of the various services, retired for longevity or on own request, in field or general officer grade, membership to be entirely voluntary and without additional pay. Since all Services would be represented, and the field not necessarily limited to purely military intelligence, the C.I.A. appears to be the logical directing and coordinating force.

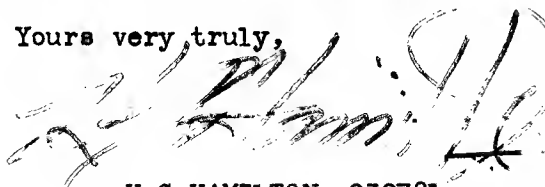
Retired Officer Centers, such as Fort Benjamin Harrison for the Army, could easily prepare IBM listings of qualified retired officers meeting the criteria. These could be contacted for an indication of interest. From the returns, final selections could readily be made, and the organization established on a geographical basis following the familiar cell structure pattern, with cell chiefs acting as the liaison and contact media. Thus, periodic EEI passed to the cell chief could be rapidly disseminated to the cell personnel, the resulting raw intelligence data consolidated, and returned through channel.

Since cell chiefs would seldom be in a position to transmit classified matter, it is suggested that in the ZI existing intelligence channels already available through the Army Areas or Naval Districts be used. Abroad, the Military Attache diplomatic channels would be available for ultimate transmission to the C.I.A.

In the aggregate, an organization such as ROVIS could contribute greatly to the intelligence picture by supplementing the already established coverage. I feel certain that the members, once given channel and direction, would welcome the opportunity of continuing service to government and country.

Should this suggestion appear to have merit, I have many of the details outlined which I would be pleased to place in your hands, or personally discuss should you so desire.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'H.G. Hamilton', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

H.G.HAMILTON 039781
Colonel, USA (Ret.)

SENDER WILL CHECK CLASSIFICATION TOP AND BOTTOM			
UNCLASSIFIED		CONFIDENTIAL	SECRET
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY			
OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP			
TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	INITIALS	DATE
1	[Redacted]		
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ACTION		DIRECT REPLY	PREPARE REPLY
APPROVAL		DISPATCH	RECOMMENDATION
COMMENT		FILE	RETURN
CONCURRENCE		INFORMATION	SIGNATURE

Remarks:

Recommend you thank him for the time and effort he has taken to let us know his ideas on how to enhance intelligence coverage on a world-wide scale and also tell him that his idea of a Retired Officer Volunteer Intelligence Service is a most interesting one.

[Redacted]

FROM: NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE NO.		DATE
Stanley J. Grogan, Asst. to the DCI		6/16
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